

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 EUR-25 SAM-01 SAB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03

SCCT-02 DRC-01 /146 W

----- 065223

R 131230Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7381

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, LE, IS

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL LEBANESE REACTION TO KIRYAT SHEMONA INCIDENT

REF: BEIRUT 4343

1. LEBANESE ACTING FONMIN GHOSN, IN STATMENT ISSUED APR 12, ELABORATED ON OFFICIAL GOL POSITION RE KIRYAT SHEMONA INCIDENT (PARA 1 REFTTEL) BY SAYING ISRAEL HAS ONLY ITSELF TO BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENED SINCE IT IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING PALESTINIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM IN FIRST PLACE. HE SAID GOL ACCEPTS PLO AND PFLP/GC CLAIMS THAT OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT BY PERSONS RESIDING WITHIN "OCCUPIED TERRITORIES", SINCE LEBANESE ARMY HAD TAKEN MEASURES TO PREVENT CROSS-BORDER INFILTRATION AND UNTSO OBERVERS HAD "CONFIRMED"

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THAT NO SUCH INFILTRATION HAD TAKEN PLACE. (AS WE HAVE

REPORTED, UNTSO OBSERVERS SAW NO INFILTRATION OR FIRING ACTIVITY ON APR 11, BUT THEY ARE IN NO POSITION TO CONFIRM IT DID NOT TAKE PLACE). GHOSN ALSO STATED GOL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS ON LEBANESE TERRITORY BUT NOT FOR INCIDENTS THAT OCCUR ELSEWHERE, AND THAT GOL CANNOT ACT AS "POLICEMAN" TO PROTECT ISRAEL. HE CONCLUDED: "WHILE WE MOURN FOR THE INNOCENT VICTIMS, WE MUST REMEMBER THAT CAUSES OF TENSION IN MIDDLE EAST CAN ONLY BE REMOVED BY ESTABLISHING A STABILITY THAT RECOGNIZES NATURAL AND LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."

2. AT APPROXIMATELY SAME TIME, PFLP/GC SPOKESMAN WAS APPEARING BEFORE NEWSMEN AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN ANOTHER PART OF BEIRUT TO EXPLAIN REASONS FOR KIRYAT SHEMONA ATTACK. "WE MOUNTED IT," HE SAID, "TO EMPHASIZE THAT OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT CONFINED TO WEST BANK AND GAZA... TO SHOW OUR REJECTION ALL DEFEATIST SOLUTIONS OF PALESTINE PROBLEM, INCLUDING CREATION OF PALESTINIAN MINI-STATE, AND TO REAFFIRM THAT WE WILL PURSUE ARMED REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE UNTIL ALL PALESTINE IS LIBERATED". SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID PFLP/GC HAD WANTED TO SHOW ALL FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR LEADERS, " SOME OF WHOM WOULD ACCEPT A DEFEATIST SOLUTION AND PAPIER-MACHE PALESTINIAN STATE", THAT "TOTAL ARMED STRUGGLE" WAS ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE "COMPLETE VICTORY". HE CLAIMED VAST MAJORITY OF PALESTINIAN "MASSES" SUPPORT PFLP/GC'S REJECTION OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT BASED ON SC RES 242, AS WELL AS ITS REPUDIATION OF DISENGAGEMENT IN SINAI, GENEVA TALKS, "NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH IMPERIALISM", 1947 PARTITION PLAN, AND "ALL OTHER SC RESOLUTIONS". HE CHARGED THAT "DESPITE THIS, CERTAIN PALESTINIAN LEADERS ARE TRYING TO SILENCE REJECTIONIST SENTIMENT AND CEASE OPERATIONS AGAINST OUR ENEMY," AND VOWED THAT PFLP/GC WOULD CONTINUE ACTS OF "REVOLUTIONARY VIOLENCE" IN ORDER TO THWART THEM. SPOKESMAN REITERATED PFLP/GC CLAIM THAT KIRYAT SHEMONA TERRORISTS HAD "BELONGED TO OUR FORCES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES", BUT IN SAME BREATH HE SAID HIS ORGANIZATION WAS AND WOULD NOT BE BOUND BY ANY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN GOL AND PLO LEADERSHIP.

3. COMMENT: WE FIND IT SADLY ILLUMINATING THAT AT VIRTUALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAME TIME AS GOL OFFICIALS WERE STICKING STEADFASTLY TO LINE RE LEBANON'S NON-INVOLVEMENT IN KIRYAT SHEMONA OPERATION, PFLP/GC SPOKESMAN WAS CROWING OVER IT AND VOICING SPOKESMAN WAS PUBLIC DEFIANCE OF GOL AND PLO POLICIES AND RESTRICTIONS IN BEIRUT. ADDITIONAL INTERESTING SIDELIGHT IS THAT WHILE PFLP/GC CONTINUES TO INSIST KIRYAT SHEMONA TERRORISTS CAME FROM SOUTH DEEP WITHIN "OCCUPIED TERRITORIES", 'ARAFAT WAS ASSURING KAMAL JUMBLATT

AND OTHER LEADING FEDAYEEN SYMPATHIZERS HERE APRIL 12
THAT THEY CAME FROM BASE ON EASTERN SLOPE OF MT. HERMON.

DECON 4/13/75.
GODLEY

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